

Football League - Division Four
Saturday, November 15th, 1980
versus WIGAN ATHLETIC

Official Programme 20p

The POOL



LUCKY NUMBER

224

THE TEAMS

HARTLEPOOL UNITED

- 1 MARTIN BURLEIGH
- 2 ALAN SWEENEY
- 3 PHILIP BROWN
- 4 ROY HOGAN
- 5 JOHN BIRD
- 6 JOHN LINACRE
- 7 BOBBY KERR
- 8 MARK LAWRENCE
- 9 BOB NEWTON
- 10 KEITH HOUCHEEN
- 11 DEREK HAMPTON

WIGAN ATHLETIC

- 1 ROBERT WARD
- 2 JOHN CURTIS
- 3 DAVID FRETWELL
- 4 LAWRENCE TIERNEY
- 5 COLIN METHVEN
- 6 ALEX CRIBLEY
- 7 DAVE GLENN
- 8 JEFF WRIGHT
- 9 WILLIAM URQUHART
- 10 MICK QUINN
- 11 GEORGE URQUHART



Meet the Ref.

M. LOWE [Sheffield] Commenced refereeing in Sheffield local leagues in 1958, then through the Central League to the Football League full list in 1972. Was linesman at the 1971 F.A. Amateur Cup Final, a European Cup match in Sweden in 1972 and an under-21 international in 1979. A married man, with three children, he is a newsagent and during the summer he spends time running to keep fit. Enjoys training and mixing with professional players and feels this liaison has mutual advantages. He carries out work for his local Referees' Association.

Linesmen:

Red Flag: J.M. Thompson, Newcastle upon Tyne

Orange Flag: C. Tye, South Shields

Next Home Match

Saturday, November 29th

versus TORQUAY UNITED



Billy Horner

says....

"LET'S PRAISE THE FANS TOO...."

Our recent good run of form seems to have produced a mutual admiration society round the Victoria Ground.

I have been quoted in the Press as saying that I have been delighted with the way the players have been going, and a number of players who have done particularly well have spotlighted the help given to them by other members of the side.

What comments made by the players in interviews have underlined is the simple fact that when we are playing well, our main strength is team-work. We have a great deal of skill and potential in the side, and when we harness that properly we are a very good side.

One player, Keith Houchen, stated in an interview that he felt that in the past we have operated too often as a bunch of individuals rather than a team, and I agree with him. Football is a team game, and no matter how much skill you have, you will never be successful if you don't work as a team.

And Team-work extends beyond the 11 men out on the pitch. There is also a back-room team of reserves, coaches, and hard-working friends of the club who stick together and keep things running as smoothly as possible.

The team-work goes even further, too . . . as far as the terraces. In the last few home matches we have attracted bigger than usual gates, and I have been very pleased with the area's response to the way the team has played.

It has, in recent seasons, been unusual for a Hartlepool team to attract more than 4,000 people to a home game unless Darlington were the visitors, or unless it was an important F.A. or League Cup-tie. It is even more unusual for the team to do well in front of a larger crowd.

But just a couple of days after beating Crewe 6-2 here at the Victoria Ground, we had well over 4,000 people watching us in the 2-0 win over Scunthorpe. For me that was a breakthrough in many ways.

We won when we had a big crowd watching, and also the crowd got behind the team and, I feel, a number of relative strangers saw many things which must have impressed them.

I have often stated publicly that I feel the Hartlepool crowd is just waiting for something to happen so they can give their support to a winning team. The signs were there against Scunthorpe that this is still true, and if we can hit some measure of consistency the crowds will continue to grow because all those people who are watching us for the first time in years must be pleased with what they see.

FROM THE PAST



SOCCER ON THE SABBATH.

In February, 1974, Britain was in the midst of the infamous three day week, and industry wasn't alone in being thrown into confusion as a result. League soccer was seen by the Government of the day, as a distraction in their efforts to persuade workers to honour their 3 days at work, even if it meant working on Saturday afternoons, which in our area, it did.

Sunday football was the answer, in spite of the protests of the organisations which have constantly been against Sunday Sport in this country, and at Victoria Ground, the first game was eagerly awaited on several counts. Pools were, in the early stages of a dramatic fight against re-election [yet again] and gates had fallen alarmingly, even by Hartlepool's modest standards. The average gate at the time of the first Sunday game was below 2,000 and in fact on the last Saturday before Christmas 1973 [when Pools had only 10 points] the gate of 832 was probably the lowest League gate in the club's history.

On February 3rd, 1974, Stockport visited the Victoria Ground, and in spite of the fact that Sunday lunchtime in the 'Local' is a way of life in our area, the gate of 5,747 was more than 2,000 up on the previous highest gate of the season. Although part of the renewed interest in the club could have been attributed to the teams vastly improved form since Christmas, there could be little doubt that the novelty of Sunday Soccer drew many supporters who are unable to attend on a Saturday.

For once the side was on its best behaviour, so often in the past [and since] they have raised their supporters, only to fail in a crucial game. However, goals by Kevin McMahon and an Allan Gauden penalty gave United a comfortable half time lead. This was increased after 68 minutes when Trimdon born Mal Dawes headed a glorious third goal, and the crowd went home happy.

Two weeks later, Mansfield were the visitors, and before a much smaller gate of 4,038 Pools really turned on the style, McMahon scored in 9 and 28 minutes, Don Heath made it three after 32 minutes and Mally Moore completed the rout after 55 minutes.

Pools played their next Sunday game on March 2nd, disposing of Workington 3-0 and on March 16th they concluded their "Sunday Bonanza" when they defeated Doncaster again by 3-0, thus finishing their 4 home games with an imposing 13 goals scored without reply.

More importantly, on the now topical subject of Soccer on Sundays, Pools averaged just over 4,000 for their 4 games at Victoria Ground, food for thought indeed.

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Action!



MEET MICHAEL FAGAN

Birthplace: Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne
 Previous Club: Carlisle United
 Home Town: Hartlepool
 Favourite Players now: Rudi Krol, Kenny Dalglish
 Favourite Player of past: Pele
 Favourite Club before turning Pro: Liverpool
 Favourite Pre-Match Food: Tea and Toast
 Favourite Meal: Lasagne
 Any other Sporting interest: Golf, Rugby
 Hobbies: Snooker, Golf, Cinema
 Football ambition: To play in 1st Division
 Ambition with Hartlepool: To get promotion
 Most memorable soccer moment: v Huddersfield away

August 1980

	F	A		Gate
9 York City (LC)	1-2	A		2,444
12 York City (LC)	0-0	H		3,496
16 Wigan Athletic	3-0	A		5,233
19 Bury	1-2	H		3,656
23 Rochdale	1-1	A		2,803
30 Doncaster Rovers	1-0	H		2,110

September

6 Northampton Town	2-3	H		2,435
13 York City	1-0	A		2,504
16 AFC Bournemouth	0-1	A		2,413
20 Hereford United	2-0	H		2,320
26 Southend United	0-4	A		5,618
30 AFC Bournemouth	1-0	H		2,433

October

4 Aldershot	1-0	H		2,872
7 Scunthorpe United	3-3	A		
11 Wimbledon	0-5	A		1,971
18 Lincoln City	2-0	H		2,689
21 Mansfield Town	0-1	H		
25 Port Vale	1-1	A		
27 Stockport County	2-0	A		2,066

November

1 Crewe Alexandra	6-2	H		3,088
4 Scunthorpe United	2-0	H		
8 Halifax Town	2-1	A		
11 Bury	0-0	A		
15 Wigan Athletic		H		
22 F.A. Cup, 1st round				
29 Torquay United		H		

December

5 Tranmere Rovers		A		
13 F.A. Cup, 2nd round				
20 Peterborough United		H		
26 Darlington		A		
27 Bradford City		H		

January, 1981

3 Mansfield Town (3)		A		
10 Port Vale		H		
17 Torquay United		A		
24 Doncaster Rovers (4)		A		
31 Rochdale		H		

POOL PROGRESS

ay last season

	F	A		Gate
February				
7 York City			H	
14 Northampton Town (5)			A	
21 Southend United			H	
28 Hereford United			A	
March				
7 Aldershot (6)			A	
14 Wimbledon [LCF]			H	
21 Lincoln City			A	
28 Stockport County			H	
April				
6 Crewe Alexandra			A	
11 Halifax Town [SF]			H	
17 Darlington			H	
18 Bradford City			A	
20				
21				
25 Peterborough United			A	
May				
2 Tranmere Rovers			H	
9 F.A. Cup Final				



INSIDE THE DRESSING ROOM



WIGAN ATHLETIC

BOB WARD [Goalkeeper] Ht.6'1" Wt. 12st. As a boy, Bob supported his local side of West Bromwich Albion, and has had the double experience of playing at "The Hawthorns" both for and against Albion! After leaving school, he played as an amateur for West Brom., turning professional at 18 and making 16 first-team appearances. He later joined Blackpool for a £20,000 fee and made his debut in an F.A.Cup tie at West Bromwich. After making 41 League appearances for Blackpool he joined Wigan last summer. An early season injury restricted his appearances for his new club, but signs are that he will be pushing hard for a first team place in the coming season.

JOHN CURTIS [Defender] Ht.5'9" Wt. 10st 12lbs. Another ex-Seasider, who has found a new lease of life at Springfield Park. After a bright opening to his career at Bloomfield Road, the Poulton-le-Fylde born defender moved to Blackburn Rovers, at club at which he never really justified his true potential. After a short period on loan to Wigan at the end of the 1978-79 season, John signed for Wigan on a full contract only to be halted in his tracks by a leg fracture which left on the sidelines for all but a handful of games. After training hard in the close season, John is set to make a real push for a first team place in the months ahead.

DAVE FRETWELL [Defender] Ht.5'9" Wt. 10st 12lbs Played as a school-boy for Yorkshire and England at under-18 level before studying industrial management at Bradford University. As a part-timer he played regularly for Bradford City in the Third and Fourth Divisions of the Football League. He made 250 appearances for the Yorkshire club before sampling the American soccer scene in California. On his return he joined Wigan for whom he has been a most reliable and consistent performer over the past two season.

COLIN METHVEN [Defender] Ht.6'1" Wt. 12st 4lbs Became Wigan's record signing at a fee of £30,000 from East Fife in October, 1979. Colin is good in the air and strong in the tackle, and soon took over as captain of the Wigan side and led his men to glory in last Year's F.A.Cup competition. The key-figure in Wigan's defensive organisation, Methven looks forward eagerly to a promotion-challenging year ahead.

JEFF WRIGHT [Midfield] Ht.5'11" Wt. 11st. 10lbs. Born in Alston, Cumbria, Jeff worked at the local foundry after leaving Grammar School. Played for both Tow Law in the Northern League and Netherfield in the Northern Premier League before joining Wigan in 1974. He has shared in many of Wigan's F.A.Cup triumphs at non-League and Football League levels - victories over Shrewsbury Town, York City and Sheffield Wednesday while a non-league player and Blackpool and Chelsea as a Football League player - will long remain as highspots in his memory. Ever-present for the past two season, Jeff is a key member of Wigan's first team squad.

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POOL PATTER

DIRECTORS BRING WELCOME PUBLICITY.

This afternoon's visitors Wigan Athletic made an important signing this season, to include the legendary Bobby Charlton in their line-up.

No, he won't actually be troubling our defence today. Robert Charlton C.B.E. is now a Director of the League's newest club, and his deep knowledge of the game, coupled with the high repute in which he is still held not only in this country but throughout the world, will provide both invaluable experience and useful "advertising potential" for the Wigan Club.

There is no doubt that a well-known director can be a big boost for a side, even if it simply means keeping the club name in the public eye.

Pop star Elton John does more than that for Watford. Since he took over as chairman, the 'Hornets' have advanced in successive seasons [1977-78 and 1978-79] from Division Four to Division Two, and have become one of the Football League's most progressive clubs, with the First Division and a new super stadium just two of their aims. There is no doubt that his money and interest have injected a new lease of life into the Hertfordshire club.

That famous comedian Eric Morcambe was, as many people will know from the jokes he used to make about them on his television shows, a long-serving director of the Luton Town board. He may never have said anything serious about Luton on the air, but the interests of the club were always in his mind.

Tranmere Rovers are fortunate to possess the B.B.C. radio sports commentator Bill Bothwell as their chairman. He was instrumental in bringing the publicity linked with national radio sports quiz broadcasts and other important social functions to the new and impressive facilities at Prenton Park.

Canon John Smith, much in demand as an eloquent and witty after-dinner speaker, has managed to spotlight his club, Bury, in his speeches. He it was who originated the joke that Bury "is the club that announces the crowd changes before a game".

There are many others whom space here excludes, although a small mention could be made of Birmingham City's zany director, Jasper Carrott. After the Midlands side suffered a bad run a while ago, he described the supporters as being better off coming to watch the St. John's Ambulance men.

For your album

HARTLEPOOL UNITED v WIGAN ATHLETIC

In June of 1978 amidst the plush splendour of the Cafe Royal in London's Regent Street, at the League's Annual General Meeting, Wigan Athletic, on a second ballot, were elected to the Fourth Division at the expense of another Lancashire side, Southport. The latter having been League members since 1921.

League football was to be a new experience for Wigan Athletic but it was not a new innovation at the club's ground at Springfield Park. Wigan Borough, who hold no association with Athletic, had endured ten seasons of moderately successful League football at Springfield Park from 1921 until October, 1931 when they resigned from the League.

Before we examine Pool's current form against Athletic, it may be of interest to look back at their record against the old Borough.

Hartlepool's first three home games against Wigan Borough were all no score draws. In fact, of their ten home games, five ended in draws. Of the remaining five, Pool won four and lost one. Of those four wins, the highest was during Borough's last full League season, when Pool thrashed them 6-1.

Away from home Pool won two, drew one and lost seven with a goals tally of 8 for and 17 against. Pool's last win against Borough at Springfield Park was on March 8th, 1930 when they won 3-1.

Wigan Athletic, or the "Latics" as they are popularly known at Springfield Park, finished their first season in Division Four in sixth position with average home gates of just under 7,000

Hartlepool's first game against them was at Victoria Ground on April 3rd 1979, before a crowd of 2,081 and ended in a 1-1 draw. The return game at Wigan two weeks later before a crowd of 8,217 saw Pool lose a 1-0 half time lead to hang on for a 2-2 draw.

Both of Pool's two home games against Athletic have ended in 1-1 draws but today in the third meeting of the teams at the Victoria Ground, Pool hope to complete a season's double over them with a home win.

Away from home Pool have drawn one, lost one and won one, in that order. The win, of course, was at Springfield Park on the opening day of this season when goals from Keith Houchen and Geoff Forster (2) gave them both points from an Athletic side who were pre-season promotion favourites.

For the more senior fans at today's game, as well as the statistically minded, I include Pool's record against both Wigan Borough and today's visitors Wigan Athletic. [See Centre Page]

SOCCER SIDESHOW

Michael Piggins
82 Westbrooke Avenue
Hartlepool
Cleveland

"Dear Sir,

Although Hartlepool's programme has improved greatly this season, I'm putting forward a few ideas which may be of use in future issues.

1. A page dedicated to fans letters. 2. A Club information desk in which details of away match travel and forthcoming events could be given, and 3. A quiz page with perhaps a "choose a caption" photograph with fans asked to send in their caption, e.g. for the cover of the Scunthorpe [home] programme - "Hey Bob, come dancing was never like this".

Yours sincerely,
Michael Piggins

Thanks for your welcome letter Mike, glad you like our programme. We will keep your ideas in mind and try to include them in future issues. The "Choose a Caption" idea sounds good, how about today's? Send in your captions direct to CB Press [Thirsk] Ltd. and we will publish the winners. Also the winner will receive a FREE Soccer calendar from us for 1981.

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